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16. (Amended) A nickel-metal hydride rechargeable battery comprising an electrode formed of a hydrogen absorbing alloy having a CaCu_5 type crystal structure in its principal phase, said alloy comprising La in an amount of 24 to 33% by weight in the alloy, Mg in an amount of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight in the alloy, and 6% by weight or less of Co in the alloy.

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Please add the following new claim:

17. A hydrogen absorbing alloy according to Claim 6, further comprising 6% by weight or less of Co in the alloy.

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